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COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1995

Letter dated 10 July 1995 from the Permanent Representatives
of Nicaragua and Solomon Islands to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith for official distribution, a document entitled: "A message in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations", by H.E. Lee Teng-hui, President of the Republic of China, dated 26 June 1995:

"A MESSAGE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIGNING OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS"

"As the year 1995 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, countries all over the world are commemorating this significant event exalting the principles and spirit of peace, equality, justice and development enshrined in the Charter. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my highest commendation and respect for the endeavours and accomplishments made by the United Nations in the fields of global social development, international humanitarian assistance and world peace and security.

"Half a century ago, when the statesmen of the world assembled in San Francisco to put the Charter into its final shape, it was hoped that a universal and effective international organization would be founded to free human beings from the scourges of war, poverty, disease, ignorance and oppression, and that it could ensure peace, prosperity and justice for the world.

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"When the United Nations came into being in 1945, the Republic of China was proud to be one of its founding members and a permanent member of its Security Council. This support for the United Nations has continued unabated. In the chapter on 'Fundamental National Policies' of its Constitution, the Republic of China has made it clear that 'the foreign policy of the Republic of China ... shall respect ... the Charter of the United Nations'. During its 26 years of participation in the United Nations, my country endorsed the efforts for self-determination and independence of the emerging new States and their peoples and supported international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health areas.

"However, resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session in 1971, forced the Republic of China to withdraw from the United Nations family. That resolution provided only for the United Nations representation of the Chinese people on the Chinese mainland. It ignored the fundamental rights of the 21 million residents on Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu - areas under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China - and deprived them of the right to participate in the political, economic, cultural and social development activities within the United Nations system. This aberrant situation, which has lasted for 24 years, is at variance with the principles and spirit of the Charter. It is high time for the United Nations to face this issue seriously and search for a solution.

"In fact, the Republic of China has been a sovereign State since its establishment in 1912. Although, as a result of civil war and the founding of the People's Republic of China on the Chinese mainland in 1949, the Government of the Republic of China for the time being can exercise effective control over only Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, the Republic of China still maintains its international personality as a sovereign State.

"The Republic of China on Taiwan and its 21 million people have been committed to achieving political democratization and economic prosperity and maintaining diplomatic and substantive ties with other countries as an active member of the international community. Forty-odd years of development have made this country the world's fourteenth largest trading nation. To date its gross national product ranks nineteenth in the world; its per capita national income approximates US$ 12,000; its foreign exchange reserves have passed US$ 100 billion; and it is the sixth largest outbound investor.

"The Government of the Republic of China has also devoted itself to political and constitutional reform in a peaceful, step-by-step manner. My country in the past few years has had the direct elections of parliamentarians, the governor of Taiwan province and the mayors of Taipei and Kaohsiung cities. In March 1996, the president will also be directly elected by the people. With that, the ideal of 'putting sovereign power in the hands of the people' will become a reality.

"With such political, economic and social developments, the Republic of China on Taiwan has a strong desire, and sufficient capability, to reciprocate for what it has received from the international community, and to fulfil its international responsibilities in order to contribute to global peace and prosperity.

"If it can participate fully in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations, the Republic of China with its ample capital, expertise and experience, will be able to assist further in the development of other countries through the United Nations and its related development programmes. This will assuredly benefit the international community as a whole. Currently, since this country is not a member of the United Nations, its good will all too often cannot be fulfilled and demonstrated. By the same token, my country has been prevented from making further contributions to the resolution of international issues such as environmental protection and drug prevention. From this perspective, the exclusion of the Republic of China from the United Nations and other international organizations constitutes a significant loss to the international community.

"It is a fact that China has since 1949 been divided into two separate parts along the Taiwan Straits. They are under separate jurisdictions by the Governments of the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China. Though the Government of the People's Republic of China exercises jurisdiction over the Chinese mainland, it must be noted that its jurisdiction has never, for a single day, extended to Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, which are under the governance of the Government of the Republic of China.

"It is therefore reasonable to demand that prior to the unification of China, our 21 million people should not be deprived of their fundamental right to participate in international activities. The Republic of China on Taiwan is also entitled to its own representation in the United Nations. The precedents of the former States of East Germany and West Germany, and the current case of North Korea and South Korea, demonstrate that parallel participation of divided nations in the United Nations does not impede their eventual unification. We believe that, the more the two sides of the Taiwan Straits participate equally in international organizations, the more this will help to ease the hostility between them. Mutual confidence will be built thereby, and will help develop a cordial relationship and be conducive to peaceful unification.

"To date, as the cold war has ended and a new world order is emerging, the Republic of China's campaign for participation in the United Nations and other international organizations not only reflects the common aspiration of its people to join international society, but it also exemplifies its willingness to work with other countries for our common cause. In retrospect, the Republic of China as a founding member of the United Nations had played a very positive, constructive role during its 26-year-long ties with the world body. Even after it was forced out in 1971, my country has still been upholding the principles and spirit of the Charter in playing its due part as a responsible member of the

international community. Indeed, as a peace-loving State, the Republic of China is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter.

"As the United Nations celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter, and at a time when the international community is becoming more pluralistic and interdependent in the post-cold war era, the maintenance of global peace and prosperity and the principle of preventive diplomacy, which encourages reconciliation, have become even more pronounced. Based on these principles, the United Nations should endeavour to seek a solution to the unjust situation of the inability of the Republic of China to play a part in the conferences and activities of the United Nations.

"To support the Republic of China's United Nations bid would not only restore the fundamental rights of the 21 million residents of the Taiwan area, but it would also serve as a testament to the lofty goals and ideas contained in the Charter, thus effectuating the principle of international justice. More important, it would also mark recognition of a free democracy.

"The Republic of China looks forward to working hand in hand with other States Members of the United Nations to fulfil the visions of the San Francisco Conference and to help build a world of peace, prosperity and stability."

Concurrently, Your Excellency will also find the transcription of a letter dated 26 June 1995 from H.E. Fredrick F. Chien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China, addressed to the Foreign Ministers of Nicaragua and Solomon Islands:

"On this day when the United Nations celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, I would like to request, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan, that your Government take appropriate action to support the review of the inequities of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) in the United Nations.

"In October 1971, at its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI) and handed over China's seat to the People's Republic of China, forcing the Republic of China to withdraw from the United Nations.

"That resolution does not constitute either a comprehensive or a just solution to the question of representation of the Chinese people in the United Nations that arose from China's division in 1949. It provides only for the representation in the United Nations of Chinese people on the Chinese mainland - the territory under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China. But it deprives the 21 million inhabitants on Taiwan, Pescadores, Quemoy and Matsu area - the territory under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China - of the right to participate in the conferences and activities within the United Nations system.

"Since its establishment in 1912, the Republic of China has been a sovereign State. Although the Government of the Republic of China was forced to relocate in Taiwan, Pescadores, Quemoy and Matsu area as a result of the Chinese civil war in 1949, and to withdraw from the United Nations in 1971, the Government of the Republic of China has always endeavoured to implement political democratization and economic development.

"Currently, the Republic of China maintains diplomatic relations and substantive ties with many other countries in the world, its international personality continues and its status as a sovereign State has never been disrupted. As the legitimate representative of the people under its governance, the Republic of China on Taiwan has the right to participate in the United Nations.

"In the nearly half a century since its establishment in 1949, the People's Republic of China has never, even for a single day, exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan and its adjacent islets. The Taiwan area definitely is not a component part of the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of China is in no position to represent the 21 million people in the Taiwan area in the United Nations.

"During its 26 years' stay in the United Nations, the Republic of China supported the ideals of the United Nations and played a positive and constructive role. Even in the two decades following its withdrawal from the United Nations, the Republic of China on Taiwan continues to follow the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and has always fulfilled her obligations as a responsible member of the international society.

"A peace-loving State, the Republic of China is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter. The inscription 'to respect the Charter of the United Nations' in article 141, chapter XIII, Fundamental National Policies, of the Republic of China's Constitution serves to demonstrate the Republic of China's strong support for the United Nations.

"The purpose of the Republic of China's bid is to secure for itself the right to participate fully in the activities of the international organizations, with the proper status that it deserves. It also intends to ensure the protection and respect of the rights of the 21 million people in Taiwan area within the international community. However, it does not intend to challenge the seat currently held by the People's Republic of China in the United Nations.

"At a time when the United Nations is observing its fiftieth anniversary, and when a new world order is evolving, the accommodation of the Republic of China in the United Nations would not only highlight the ideas and spirit of the Charter, it would also conform to the principle of preventive diplomacy.

"As the support of your country for the ideals and spirit of the United Nations is well known, it is requested that your Government make an

intervention in the general debate of the General Assembly and related meetings in support of the review of the aberrant situation relating to the Republic of China.

"We also respectfully request that your Government support the inclusion of the item regarding the Republic of China's United Nations bid in the agenda of the General Assembly. It is our hope that the issue can be openly and thoroughly discussed in the General Assembly, and that the situation of the inability of the Republic of China's 21 million people to participate in the activities and agencies in the United Nations system may finally be redressed."

Taking into account the contents of the two aforementioned texts and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44.

(Signed) Erich Vilchez ASHER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua

(Signed) Rex Stephen HOROI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Solomon Islands